

## COVID19 Town of Scituate Update

June 1, 2020

Karen Canfield acknowledged the principled protests held in Scituate over the weekend. She stressed that the town appreciates their peaceful expression of their concerns and that town officials recognize them and hear them. She then commended the Scituate Police Department, and especially Chief Stewart and Town Administrator Jim Boudreau, for going above and beyond to ensure that the protesters were safe as they stood near the rotary and listened to their concerns.

Jim Boudreau added that he spent time speaking directly with the protesters and offered to sit down and talk about all of their concerns and issues and to work together to find solutions. Deputy Chief Thompson (soon to be Chief) also offered to meet with anyone who would like to sit down. He further discussed how the SPD were in good hands with the transition later this week from Chief Stewart to Chief Thompson. Mr. Boudreau congratulated both department on its protection and respect of the protesters and the protesters for their behavior as well.

### Weekend update:

COVID19 Scituate cases: 4 additional cases (one new case unknown origins)

Nursing Homes: 12 new cases

10 in Life Care Center (the total is over 60 cases out of a population of 90)

2 in Cardigan (total 10)

There is a lag in reporting between nursing home tests reporting to state and then sending numbers to Scituate. Scituate BOH Director speaks with nursing homes daily to support them and to understand what is going on.

On schedule for phase 2 of the Governor's re-opening plan on June 8th. New case numbers are significantly dropping. That means that restaurants will be able to open with outside seating. Customers and businesses will have to adhere to state guidelines including masks when you're not seated at your table, constant cleaning, tables set far apart, utensils brought to table (not left on table), and other important safety measures. The town has been working with restaurants to explore ways to expand/accommodate outside seating areas, including potentially closing Front Street to provide more space. The restaurants need to provide plans and ideas of what will work for them and the town is working to find ways to help them. As soon as there is a workable plan, we will announce to the public. There are also legislative hurdles that need to be addressed so that municipalities can help local businesses more quickly.

Nail salons and tattoo parlors will be opening. So that's good. Also car dealerships will be open on a limited basis, as will hotels. Go to [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov) for guidelines.

Water department alerted the public that the water usage is way up. With everyone at home, we are way beyond our normal year cycle with 7 days already over 1M gallons being drawn from our water treatment plant. Water restrictions are in place (as always). Please use your irrigation systems once a week, as required. Outdoor watering should occur before 9am and after 5pm. Work towards conservation. Should we not see proper adherence to the guidelines, unfortunately fees will be charged for noncompliance.

Although beach parking lots were full this weekend, people were generally working hard to social distance and follow the state health guidelines. The same was true for the Spit this weekend. If everyone continues to follow these guidelines, this will allow beaches to remain open. Youth have been the worst offenders and police will be reminding them of the

guidelines. Lifeguards will be on duty in two weeks and will be keeping an eye on the beaches. If people aren't following the rules, the SPD will be called to help with enforcement.

Transfer station is requesting people to separate cardboard from paper to improve the quality of the waste stream, reduce costs, and allow transfer station to be more efficient and cost-effective.

Town election is June 13th, at SHS from 9am to 2pm. Town clerk is encouraging absentee voting. Request a ballot as soon as possible to ensure you can return in time for the election. Candidate forum will be held this week. Watch for updates. It's difficult for candidates to campaign. (NOTE: 6/3 Scituate Library Foundation will record a forum with candidates to be released via social media. Scituate Chamber is working to put together a forum for next week.)

Town meeting will be postponed again. Hoping to hold an outdoor meeting on June 27th in the morning to conduct essential town business. Tentatively scheduled at 9am, 6/27. Moderator will make the final determination. Hopefully a consent agenda will be put forward to expedite the meeting.

Property taxes are due to the town today. If you have a difficulty, please call the town treasurer to discuss options. As of this morning, over 96% of town had paid their taxes. These funds are needed to pay for our fire, police, and other town employees.

Please remember to wash your hands, cover your face if you're out, and stay home if you're sick per the CDC guidance.

There will be a series of webinars through Scituate Chamber of Commerce and Scituate Loves Local to educate local businesses about ways to help them with the re-opening transition.

Next broadcast is scheduled for Thursday, 6/4.